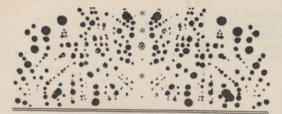
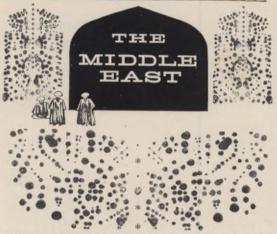




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A POCKET GUIDE TO



OFFICE OF ARMED FORCES INFORMATION AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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American sailors on camels visit Great Pyramid.

POCKET GUIDE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

INTRODUCTION

If your assignment takes you to the crossroads area known both as the Middle East and the Near East, you have an important job to do in an ancient and fascinating part of the world. This guide can merely introduce you to the Middle East—its peoples, customs, governments, and points of interest. It will give you glimpses of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. You'll find it worth while to read more about the history-steeped Middle East where our civilization arose—where West meets East.

The Middle East is an area of worldwide interest, the object of keen international rivalries. Its history is a story of invasion and conquest—of the rise and fall of civilizations and empires. Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Mongols, and Turks have swept back and forth across this land bridge between Europe, Asia, and Africa. All have left their marks, except perhaps the Mongols, who ruthlessly destroyed almost everything in their path.

¹ For information on Turkey, see PG-11, A Pocket Guide to Turkey.

The presence of U.S. forces in the Middle East indicates the vital interest of the United States in that area. Until explosive issues deeply rooted there are settled, the peace of the world is threatened. Meanwhile, the countries of the Middle East remain targets of Communist aggression and infiltration.

The strategic location of the Middle East—at the crossroads of three continents—became even more strategic when the Suez Canal was completed in 1869. Ships sailing between Europe and the Orient could avoid the long trip around Africa.

A tremendous asset of the Middle East is its oil. American, British, French, and Dutch companies have important stakes in Middle Eastern oil. Not only does this region supply three-fourths of Europe's and most of the Far East's petroleum needs, but it also contains about two-thirds of the world's estimated oil reserves.

Because of its location and its oil resources, the Middle East is naturally attractive to the Soviet Union. Under the guise of "peace," Communists have stirred up violent emotions in the Middle East against foreign companies, defense alliances, foreign aid, and "the West" in general. To date their infiltration has met with little success other than to add fuel to the flames of nationalism which have burned fiercely since World War II.

In recent times, new states have arisen. They are just beginning to realize dreams of self-government, economic development, and social equality. Widespread poverty and illiteracy provide fertile fields for seeds of discontent sown by the Kremlin.

When you consider the long domination of the Middle East by foreign nations, it is not hard to understand why Middle Eastern peoples are strongly against imperialism and strongly for independence. Many of them are suspicious of Western moves to influence their governments, their alliances, and their plans to develop themselves economically. Many are wary of offers of treaties and assistance. Not having experienced Communist imperialism, some countries are less hostile to the Soviet Union than to the Western powers.

Traditionally, Americans believe in the right of all peoples to determine their own future. Our policy is to support the rights of Middle Eastern peoples without interfering in their internal affairs. We hope to promote peace among the Middle Eastern states. Our aim in offering them military and economic aid is to help them resist Communist aggression and build a solid basis for prosperity and stability.

Part of your job is to conduct yourself so that you will convince these people that we are trying to help them—that we are not trying to infringe on their sovereign rights. It is to our best interests as well as

theirs that their governments become stable, and that economic and social changes bring them a better way of life.

As an American you will not be a stranger in the Middle East. Even though you may occasionally find some antagonism, a reservoir of good will toward us has been developed over the years. Americans have pioneered in providing good institutions of higher learning in Middle Eastern countries. Benevolent organizations have helped settle refugees, assisted farmers, conducted practical health programs, and contributed to the education and welfare of the people. Through technical assistance programs of our Government, we are providing expert assistance in agriculture, engineering, medicine, and education. These are but a few examples.

The United States maintains close liaison with the Baghdad Pact organization and supports it motives. Members of this regional defense grouping are Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom. Under separate agreements, the United States furnishes arms and equipment to Pakistan and the Middle Eastern members of the Baghdad Pact, and permits other Middle Eastern states to purchase military equipment from us.

A BIT OF HISTORY—ANCIENT AND MODERN

For hundreds of years, most of the Middle East (excluding Iran and a large part of the Arabian peninsula) was part of the vast Ottoman (Turkish) Empire. Nomadic tribes of Turks from central Asia carved their Moslem Empire from three continents—northern Africa, western Asia, and southeastern Europe. In 1453 they seized Constantinople (ancient Byzantium; now, Istanbul) and made it their capital. Sweeping on into Europe, they were stopped finally at Vienna in 1683. The Turkish Empire gradually weakened as time went on. Its collapse came at the end of the first World War when it shared Germany's defeat.

Under the able leadership of Kemal Ataturk, Turkey became a republic. The late King Ibn Saud gradually established his rule over most of the Arabian peninsula and established the present Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Under the League of Nations, Lebanon and Syria were mandated to France; Iraq (then Mesopotamia) and Palestine, to Britain. In time, Lebanon and Syria, following the example of France, became independent republics. Iraq established a kingdom.

Egypt, which had been under British control, gained limited independence in 1922. In 1936 Britain removed its troops from Egypt, with the exception of forces guarding the Suez Canal. The last of these were withdrawn in 1956.

The Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Israel emerged from the region known as Palestine.

The Palestine Problem

Palestine, the birthplace of Judaism and Christianity, was the ancient homeland of the 12 tribes of Israel, as related in the Bible. Under the leadership of such men as Saul, David, and Solomon, the enemies of the Jews were defeated and the tribes united in a kingdom. Eventually, the power of the Jewish kingdom waned as it was conquered by different nations in turn. Under Roman rule, Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D., and the Jews were dispersed throughout the world.

The opening of this century found Palestine a part of the Ottoman Empire, with a predominantly Arab

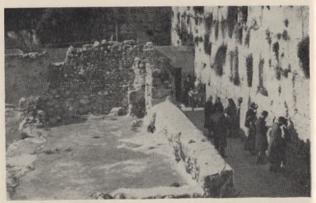
population.

Through centuries of persecution and discrimination in other lands, the Jews looked back with longing to their ancient home. In the late 19th century, the international Zionist movement was organized to work for the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. British policy after World War I, as expressed in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, was to permit Jews to emigrate to Palestine to establish "a national home" there. Jewish immigration into the country began under the British mandate and increased greatly after Hitler, with his vicious anti-Jewish policy, came into power in Germany in 1933.

The Palestinian Arabs, who considered the country theirs because they had lived in it for more than a thousand years, became more and more resentful of the growing influx of Jews. Riots and disturbances occurred at increasingly frequent intervals.

In 1947 the United Nations voted to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. The Arabs refused to accept this plan. Great Britain ended the mandate and withdrew her troops in 1948. At the same time Israel proclaimed itself an independent state.

The surrounding Arab states immediately attacked Israel, but with superior military leadership, organization, determination, and ability to resupply its forces, Israel defeated their armies. A series of armistice agreements worked out by the United Nations brought an end to organized warfare in 1949, but fighting on a smaller scale has gone on along Israel's boundary almost continuously since then. To this day, the Arabs have not made peace with Israel nor recognized its existence as a state.

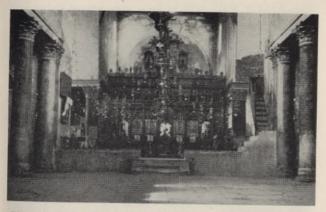


Wailing Wall, Jerusalem (Jordan sector).

The unfortunate victims of the Arab-Israeli war are the Palestinian Arab refugees—now grown to more than 800,000. These people exist wretchedly in refugee camps scattered from the Gaza Strip, on the Mediterranean coast, into Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The United Nations is doing what it can to help, but their plight is miserable.

Jerusalem-City of Star, Cross, and Crescent

Jordan annexed the part of Palestine her army, the Arab Legion, occupied during the Arab-Israeli con-



Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem—a Christian shrine.

flict. This included a part of Jerusalem—the Old City. Israel occupied the New City of Jerusalem where its Government is now located. Because Jerusalem is holy to Jews, Christians, and Moslems, the United Nations voted to internationalize it when agreeing to partition Palestine. The United States, in view of the UN ruling, does not recognize the sovereignty of either Israel or Jordan over Jerusalem.

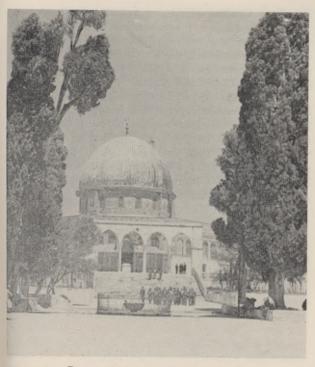
The Old City of Jerusalem is holy to the Jews because of its sites associated with David and Solomon.

The Wailing Wall, said to be a remnant of Solomon's Temple, is still standing.

Near the Wailing Wall are Islamic shrines—the Mosque El Aksa and the Dome of the Rock (also called the Mosque of Omar). Next to Mecca and Medina, Jerusalem is the most holy city of Islam.

Jerusalem attracts Christian visitors from all over the world because many events of the life of Christ occurred there. In the Old City are the Way of the Cross and the famous Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This Church, according to tradition, stands on the site of Jesus' tomb. Near Jerusalem, in Jordan, are Bethlehem, the birthplace of Christ, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Mount of Olives. Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus, is in Israel.

Entry from Israel into the Jordan sector of Jerusalem is generally prohibited by Jordan. When this is allowed, it causes serious difficulties in further travel through the other Arab states. The crossing point is known as the "Mandelbaum Gate." If you plan to visit Jerusalem, find out if this is possible by first checking with your unit commander, inquiring at the nearest American embassy or consular office, or writing to the U.S. Consulate General in either the Israel or Jordan sector of Jerusalem.



Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem.

The Arab League

The Arab League, through which Arab states hope to promote greater unity and cooperation among themselves, came into being in March 1945. Member states are Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan.

Aside from being solidly opposed to Israel, against whom an economic boycott was imposed, the League has been able to agree on few political issues. Tensions within the League work against unity. Egypt, which aspires to lead the Arab world, opposes Arab co-operation with the West. Iraq's membership in the Baghdad Pact has incurred the resentment of Egypt and other League members.

THE MIDDLE EASTERN SCENE

Nature has provided the Middle East with varied scenery—bleak, snow-capped mountains and vast deserts where the daytime heat is so intense that houses of brick or stone stay warm all through the cold nights. There are tropical areas where date palms grow in lush groves, as well as occasional forests, fertile coastal plains, barren wastes, and sparkling seacoasts.

An impressive feature of the climate is its extreme dryness in most parts. This accounts for the broad stretches of desert, completely uninhabitable except by nomads who concentrate around scattered oases. The annual rainfall in most of the Middle East is less than 10 inches. Springs and wells are always in danger of running dry. Water is hoarded carefully and used frugally. Don't waste it.

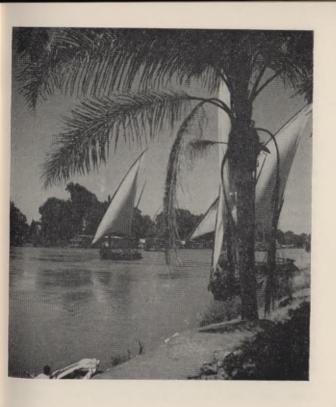
While the climate along the Mediterranean coast is generally mild and pleasant, much of the Middle East is uncomfortably hot during the long summer season and cold in winter. Snowfall is not uncommon in the mountainous areas in winter, the season when most of the rain falls. As a rule, the days are hot and the nights cold.

Sudden rainstorms can turn mud flats into mires, desert into a slippery nightmare for man and beast, and wadis (stream beds, usually dry) into masses of



A region of striking contrasts in scenery . . . Towering mountains in Iran, above. Bleak stretch of Saudi Arabian sand, below. The Nile River, lifeline of Egypt, right.





mud or swift rivers. Frequent high winds bring dust storms so severe that they limit visibility and damage motor vehicles.

Between the mountains in the north and the deserts in the south is a narrow green strip known as the "fertile crescent." It starts with the coast of Israel, Lebanon, and Syria, then bends eastward and southward through the Tigris and Euphrates Valleys of Iraq to the Persian Gulf. This is potentially the most productive agricultural area in the Middle East. In the fertile crescent ancient civilizations rose and fell.

Because of its terrain and climate most of the Middle East, except the Nile Delta, is sparsely populated. The population of the Middle East was much greater centuries ago before erosion, overgrazing, and destruction by invading hordes turned once fertile areas into desert.

THE PEOPLE

Perhaps the first and most striking thing you will notice when you reach the Middle East will be the wide variety in types of people. Don't judge them all by the first you meet, such as the fellow who tries to sell you an old Roman coin. He is no more the typical Middle Easterner than the souvenir salesman at Coney Island is the typical American.

The Iranians are of Persian origin, and they speak a different language from that of their Arabian neighbors. A majority of the people of Israel are Jewish. Elsewhere in most of the Middle East, the Arabs predominate.

The people of Iraq or Syria or Iran range from the highly educated businessman or government official to the illiterate peasant or the Bedouin tribesman of the desert. Some look like Europeans; others are very dark brown in color. Some dress in Western clothing; others, in colorful, flowing robes.

Despite their differences, the Arabs and Iranians share many qualities. Hospitality is traditional and famous among them, whatever their station in life. As a guest in their homes you will be treated to the kindest and most lavish consideration. When they say, as they often do, "My home is your home," they mean



A region of diverse peoples... Israeli farm girl, upper left; Saudi merchant, upper right; Iranian nomads, below

it. Your inability to return such hospitality may become embarrassing.

Individualists and emotional by nature, these people are jealous of their personal honor and dignity. They are quick to take offense at some real or imaginary slight. This is particularly true of the nomads. Politeness is important to them because it indicates your respect for them as persons deserving honorable treatment.

Family ties are strong among the Arabs and Iranians. Any needy person who has relatives—no matter how distantly connected—can be sure of food and shelter. This trait of looking after others is strongest within the family circle, although almsgiving to the needy is one of the requirements of their Moslem faith.

You'll find these people good company because most of them have a sense of humor. Not only are they charming and courteous hosts, but they are intensely loyal to their friends. Make friends with them. You won't regret it.

Although Arabic is the language of the Arab countries and Persian that of Iran, you'll be impressed with the variety of other tongues spoken by minorities. You'll hear Kurdish, Armenian, Turkish, Assyrian, and Chaldean. The educated of all cities speak English or French. In Beirut and Damascus, French is spoken

by many as fluently as their own Arabic. You'll find it easier to get along and to make friends of the Arabs and Iranians if you learn to speak a few common words and polite phrases in their languages. They will appreciate the effort, even if your pronunciation is atrocious.

As a military man, you've been told many times to watch your conduct and mind your manners. Minding your conduct and manners in the Middle East is particularly important. It can save you a lot of hard knocks and at the same time bring credit to you and your country. We want to maintain the good will that we have so carefully built up. You can help by respecting local traditions, customs, and tabus, even if they seem odd to you. With a little effort and understanding on your part, you can make friends among the Middle Easterners.

IT'S A MAN'S WORLD

Moslem women of the Middle East are just beginning to emerge from the seclusion of their veils to a wider participation in social life. Protected traditionally from association with men outside their own family circles, they are gradually being permitted more freedom to appear in public and to fill a greater role in society. This is particularly true in the larger cities and among the educated.

Don't expect your contacts with girls and women to be more than formal. The free and easy approach considered normal at home is far from normal in Moslem countries. It would be a serious mistake to try to engage a woman in conversation unless you have been properly introduced. Proper introductions are rare, especially outside the larger cities. You may occasionally be presented to women in their own homes or at social events attended by families in a group. Don't be surprised, though, if you aren't introduced to wives and daughters at some of the homes you visit.

Respect the privacy of women still wearing veils, and don't stare at a girl not wearing a veil. Don't even photograph women. If, by way of politeness, you wish to inquire about the health or welfare of female members of a family, it's discreet and respectful to ask



Many Moslem women still wear veils . . . even in cities.

about the "family" rather than the "wife" or "daughter."

An Arab meticulously avoids any show of affection to members of the female sex in public. For this reason, some think that he despises women. Such a theory has little basis in fact.

THE RELIGION OF THE MOSLEMS

Most of the peoples of the Middle East are Moslems (or Muslims), as followers of Islam are called. Islam is one of the three great religions that originated in the Middle East. In a sense, Islam is more than a religion—it is the basis of the society, law, and culture of its followers, some 400 million in number throughout the world. To understand the Moslem, you must know something of his basic religious beliefs.

First of all, Allah is the one and only God. The Moslem refers to Allah frequently in his daily conversation. He doesn't venture to predict anything without adding, "If Allah wills." Expressions of gratitude are followed by "Praise to Allah." Many books and speeches begin "In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful."

While Allah is all-powerful, He can be reached by every Moslem through prayer. Islam requires all Moslems to kneel in prayer 5 times a day, facing Mecca. A muezzin standing in the tower (or minaret) on top of a mosque (a Moslem church) calls the Moslems to prayer. A man praying, whether in a mosque, the field or desert, or his home, is a common sight.

In addition to prayer, there are 4 duties required of the Moslem. If possible, he must make one pil-

grimage in his lifetime to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, he must give alms generously to the needy, he must fast between sunrise and sunset during the month of Ramadan, and he must profess his belief in Allah as the one God and accept Mohammed as Allah's prophet.

The Koran is the sacred book of Islam containing God's word as revealed to Mohammed. Not only is it the final authority for personal and social ethics, but it also tells the Moslem in detail how to live and organize his state or society. The grammar of the Koran is the final reference for the Arabic language.

Mohammed was born in Mecca, Arabia, late in the 6th century. He claimed divine revelations from Allah and founded the Islamic religion in the 7th century. At Mohammed's death a lively struggle arose as to who should succeed him, since he had no sons. As a result, several branches of Islam developed. Within the next few hundred years Islam was spread, by conquest and conversion, into Africa, Europe, Asia, and islands of the Pacific.

Islam recognizes much that Christians and Jews believe. For example, it accepts Abraham and Moses as prophets. Moslems believe Jesus was also a prophet but that Mohammed was the last and greatest of the prophets.



The Kaaba at Mecca is the most sacred shrine of Islam.

You'll see mosques wherever you go—in city or village. Many are beautiful in design and decoration. Some are closed to all except Moslems. This is true throughout Saudi Arabia where Islam got its start. But there are many mosques elsewhere that can be seen by visitors at specified times.

Several "don'ts" must be scrupulously observed when you visit mosques. Don't even enter one unless you are invited. It is better to be accompanied by a guide or a person of the Islamic faith. Be sure to remove your shoes before entering and stand respectfully in your socks. You may leave your shoes on and cover them with sandals if sandals are provided.

Speak only in whispers when you are in a mosque. Keep silent when Moslems pray. Never smoke or spit in front of a mosque. The next two "don'ts" apply throughout Moslem countries, whether you are inside or outside a mosque. Don't stare at Moslems when they pray, and never discuss religion with them.

The law of Moslem countries is based on the ancient precepts of the Koran. To Americans, used to trial by jury and a highly technical body of modern law at home, some of the punishments dealt out for certain misdemeanors seem unduly harsh.

Moslems are forbidden to drink alcoholic beverages of any kind. A person caught drunk in Saudi Arabia is punished with 80 lashes. In Iran, however, where



Omayyad Mosque, Damascus, Syria.

the faith of the masses contains many beliefs and practices older than Islam, drinking of wine prevails to some extent.

Another item banned by Islam is pork. Moslems can neither breed pigs nor eat pork in any form.

Don't offer a Moslem food of any kind, water, or cigarettes during the hours of fasting (sunrise to sundown) in the holy month of Ramadan.

Finally, don't take pictures of religious ceremonies without permission.

Moslem law allows a man to have 4 wives at the same time provided he treats them all equally. Most Moslems will cheerfully admit that they can't afford more than one. First marriages are often made between girls in their early teens and boys of 16 or 17.

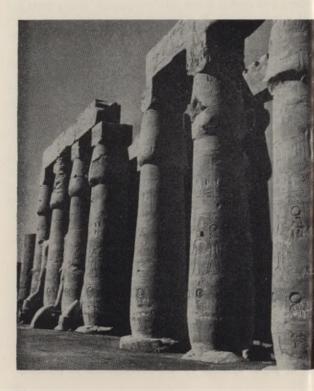
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WEST

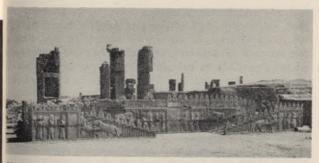
The heritage of the West from the ancient Middle East is immense. Great civilizations flourished in the Middle East while the peoples of Western Europe were still barbarians. Our moral values derived from Christianity and Judaism, both of which originated in the Middle East, are only part of the picture. Early scholars and scientists of the Middle East made lasting contributions to our Western civilization. It's impossible to itemize all that the Middle East has given us. Here are a few random examples.

Many of the words you use have their roots in Arabic—for example, cotton, sheriff, algebra, caravan, jar, syrup, bazaar, tariff, admiral, arsenal, and mattress. Many Spanish and Portuguese words are of Arabic extraction—a reminder that for hundreds of years Arabs controlled parts of these countries.

So beautiful is Arabic script that Christian artisans of Europe used it to decorate vases and coins—not realizing, apparently, that they were quoting from the Koran.

Arabs used paper for manuscripts as early as the 9th century. Christian Europe lagged behind for several centuries before importing the paper process. The use of paper speeded up the development of printing.





Famcus ruins. Left, Temple of Luxor colonnade, Egypt. Above, stairway of Xerxes' portico, Persepolis, Iran. Below, a crumbling ruin of rose-tinted Petra, Jordan.



Arabs and Persians were writing books on geography, astronomy, and philosophy by the 9th century, too. Long afterwards these were translated into Latin for the use of scholars in Europe. Arabic numerals made it possible to calculate rapidly. A distinguished Arab physician named Avicenna contributed much to early medical science.

Typical Spanish folk music, in which a soloist carries a weird melody for long passages, is almost exactly the same that you'll hear blaring from phonographs and radios in coffee shops throughout the Arab world. Tango rhythm is straight out of the Middle East. It originated from Arab drumming for singers and dancers.

The game of chess was introduced to the Persians from India and passed on by Moslems to Europe. The word "checkmate" is *sha mat* in Arabic, meaning the Shah is dead—in other words, the king is cornered and defeated.

MOSLEM CUSTOMS

To avoid offending Moslems, you must observe certain of their ancient customs and tabus when you are with them. If you do, you'll gain their warm friendship and devoted loyalty. If you don't, you'll be risking your neck foolishly. The Arab seeks revenge for what he regards as an offense against his personal honor and dignity. Since his religious and social customs are closely intermingled, one misstep on your part might violate both.

It's common for Moslem men to embrace and kiss upon greeting each other, and to stroll hand in hand. Don't laugh or appear startled at this. It's quite normal for them.

Be prepared to shake hands frequently—perhaps sevderal times a day with the same person. It's a common practice. When you shake a Moslem's hand, though, do it gently. He is unaccustomed to a firm grip and to vigorous pumping action.

Instead of backslapping, let your geniality and welcome show on your face and in your inquiries about his health and fortunes. Moslems resent being touched or handled. They will consider it an offense if you strike, push, or jostle them.

Moslems are extremely courteous and exchange a

variety of polite phrases of greeting, good wishes and farewell. Learn to use a few yourself. This cour tesy will please them and make them like you.

You may be invited into Moslem homes for tea, dinner, or a visit. Such associations can be delightful experiences that you will remember long after you have left the Middle East. But there are certain pointers to remember. Never enter a home without knocking. If a woman answers your knock, wait discreetly outside until she has had time to retire. Take your shoes off before entering, but leave your socks on.

When coffee or tea is served, you will be offered one to three cups or glasses—accept them. Since the cups and glasses are small, the quantity consumed will not be great. Besides, you may develop a taste for the local brands of these beverages, served hot very sweet, and without milk. Always refuse a fourth cup. This is done by shaking your cup from side to side or turning it upside down. The third cup is your signal to depart. While it's impolite to leave before the third cup is served, you may overstay your well-come if you linger after you drink it.

At meals in the homes of wealthier Moslems, you will enjoy a tempting array of excellent dishes—perhaps roast lamb, mazgouf (fish baked on a spit), kebab (chunks of succulent meat cooked on skewers), mounds of rice, savory sauces, rich pastries, and fruits.



It's polite to use the right hand when eating with Arabs.

Feel free to take second helpings. It's not only permissible, but your host will consider it a compliment if you do. Bear in mind, though, that you may become uncomfortably stuffed before you reach the last of some half dozen courses.

Don't start eating until your host has begun. Tear the bread with your hands—never cut it. It's polite to leave something in the main bowl. What is left goes to the women and children.

The Arab uses his left hand for attending to the

calls of nature. Consequently, it's impolite to use the left hand when offering, passing, or receiving any thing. Always use your right hand in eating, even it you're a southpaw.

When you sit with Moslems in an office or home don't extend the soles of your feet (or shoes) in the direction of others. It isn't hard to be polite in this respect if you are seated in a chair—just refrain from crossing your legs. The real trick will be to manage this when sitting on the floor or ground. Chairs are not standard items of equipment in Arab homes.

If you are burdened with racial prejudices, conceathem carefully. The Moslem draws no color line. He will appreciate it, too, if you treat his servants with consideration.

Many uneducated Moslems fear the "evil eye." To admire a child of theirs is to risk incurring the blame for any misfortune that may befall the youngster later Fear of the "evil eye" extends to the eye of the camera, so use it with caution—only on acceptable subjects, after you receive permission.

Politics, as well as religion and women, are defi

nitely out as topics of polite conversation.

Follow all of these tips carefully. They will be particularly useful in rural areas that still cling to customs of the past.



The Arab is a mixture of many races.



You'll enjoy visiting bazaars like this one in Arak, Iran.

BAZAAR PROWLING

If you want to do a little souvenir shopping, you're in for a great Moslem pastime—bargaining. It's a good-natured sport in which Moslems have developed considerable skill over the years.

In large cities, outside of Saudi Arabia, you'll find modern shops run much as are the ones at home. Your ability to bargain will not be tested at these but at the more numerous bazaars where Middle Eastern handicrafts are found.

Bazaars of Teheran, Isfahan, Baghdad, or Damascus are as colorful as any of the sights you'll see in the Middle East. Crowded with an assortment of peoples and livestock, their stalls are lined with delicate wares of gold and silver, brass and copper dishes and trays, leather products, mother-of-pearl inlaid boxes, carpets, brocades and silk, daggers, candlesticks, paintings on bone and ivory, jewelry, and perfume. You'll want more than you can buy.

A word of caution about buying Oriental rugs: In order to fill the great demand of Western markets, some rug-weavers are speeding the ancient process and using a poorer quality of materials. If you plan to buy a rug, get an expert to help you. And don't expect a rug of fine quality to be cheap.

If possible, before shopping, inquire about prices from someone who has been stationed at your post or base and who knows the ropes. Forearmed with this information, you can approach shopkeepers in the bazaars with an air of confidence that will discourage them from trying to sell you the Sphinx. If you are lucky enough to be accompanied by an Iranian friend in Isfahan or a Saudi in Jidda, his help can be invaluable. Another help is to become a ham actor. Learn to register surprise, amazement, regret, and disinterest.

Prices marked on merchandise in the bazaars will be at least a third too high. Don't appear too interested and don't hurry. You will be expected to browse around in a leisurely fashion. Many merchants will offer you coffee or tea and a cigarette on the house.

When you begin your haggling, offer a third of the asking price. The merchant will appear shocked at your ridiculously low offer. You then act as though you aren't really interested and tell him you want to look around in other shops. This often brings the price down. With patience, it's possible to make your purchase at a fair price.

Since the Moslem day of rest is Friday, the Jewish, Saturday, and the Christian, Sunday, your opportunity to shop during weekends will be curtailed somewhat.

HEALTH TIPS

Most of the Middle East is plagued with diseases of many kinds. Some are carried by swarms of insects. Others result from improper disposal of sewage and lack of refrigeration for foods. The climate itself, generally alternating between hot days and cold nights, can bring sunstroke and lung ailments.

Part of your duty as a member of the Armed Forces is to protect yourself against disease. Don't take chances. By applying the few simple rules below, particularly when you are in rural areas, you can perhaps avoid a serious illness.

- To avoid trachoma, a widespread eye infection that can cause blindness, keep your hands away from your eyes as much as possible.
- · Be sure the cooked food you eat is thoroughly done.
- · Avoid raw vegetables.
- Don't eat fresh fruits unless they are scrubbed or peeled.
- Be sure the water you drink has been boiled or treated with a purifying agent. Tea is safe only if the water is boiled several minutes.
- Protect yourself from the blazing rays of the sun.
 Wear sunglasses. Avoid heat exhaustion.
- Take the usual precautions against the common cold.
 It might develop into a serious lung ailment.

YOUR LEGAL STATUS

You are expected to obey the laws and respect the customs of any country you may be in—whether you are stationed there or visiting. You expect foreigners in the U.S. to respect our laws and customs.

The United States has signed agreements with Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Iraq regarding your legal status as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces. In the other countries of the Middle East your status is exactly the same as that of a civilian tourist.

Generally speaking, our own authorities have jurisdiction when an offense is committed on a U.S. base. In other cases the offender may be arrested by the local authorities and turned over to the U.S. military for trial and punishment. Normally, however, just as in the United States, local authorities may arrest, try, and punish (upon conviction) a serviceman for an offense committed off-base.

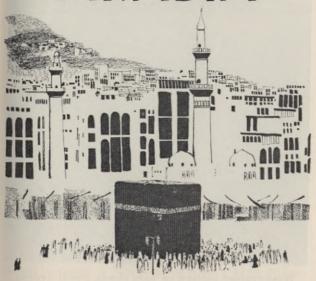
Although Iran has a European type civil code, the law throughout most of the Middle East is based upon the Koran. Remember that drinking, not to mention drunkenness, is frowned on in most Moslem lands. In Saudi Arabia alcoholic beverages are strictly forbidden.

Of course, you can get into trouble through no fault

of your own, as in an automobile accident, for example. If you are arrested, ask the police to notify your commander. If you are in a country where no U.S. military missions or units are stationed, ask the authorities to notify the U.S. Ambassador, Minister, or Consul, or the Military, Naval, or Air Attaché. A military or diplomatic representative of the United States will arrange bail, or if that is impossible, provide a lawyer and see that you are given proper food and quarters during your detention.

Remember that if you are guilty of an offense, you are still liable to trial by court-martial after your release by the civilian authorities. Despite the current tension, it is very unlikely that you will get into trouble. Just as at home, an average amount of tact, common sense, and good will, will keep you out of trouble.

SAUDI ARABIA





Wind-rippled pattern on sand dunes, Saudi Arabia.

SAUDI ARABIA

The Kingdom of Saudi (Sa-OO-di) Arabia, a little more than a third the size of the United States, spreads over most of the large Arabian peninsula that juts out from the continent of Asia. The Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea surround it on three sides.

The country is a great, barren desert, dotted by oases that occasionally grow into towns, and partly rimmed by mountains along the coast. On the south and east coasts, mountains rise sharply from the sea and slope gently into the interior. In the south is a large, almost impassable, desert with sand dunes rising as high as 700 feet above the surrounding sand. This the Arabs themselves call "The Empty Quarter."

The population of the entire Arabian peninsula is about 10 million. The men are usually short and slight, with dark skin, high-bridged noses, and dark, piercing eyes. More often than not, they wear beards. Under flowing cloaks, they are clothed in broad-sleeved, white shirts that reach to their heels.

A great many of the people live in black tents made of goat's hair. These are easy to pitch and can be moved by camel. A family tent is usually 40 by 10 feet.



Nomads roam desert seeking pasturage for herds.

Bedouin tribesmen live on camel's milk, dates, bread, and coffee. Camel and gazelle meat and mutton are luxury items.

Religion and Customs

Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam and the spiritual homeland of all Moslems. A pilgrimage to Mecca, the birthplace of Mohammed, is the supreme hope of all who profess this faith. Hundreds of thousands of faithful pilgrims from many parts of the world visit Mecca annually.



Jidda-Red Sea port of entry for many pilgrims.

Practically all Saudis are Moslems, but their beliefs differ according to their particular sects. The strict Wahhabi sect outnumbers the others by far. Moslems of the Shiah sect are permitted to make pilgrimages to Shiah shrines in Iraq and Iran instead of going to Mecca.

In general, Saudis observe the austere rulings of their religion. They are not permitted to drink alcoholic beverages. Nor are they allowed to dance or smoke. Tobacco is not used in Government offices nor in the presence of members of the royal family.



Harvesting dates, an important food of Saudi Arabia.

Until recently, Saudi Arabia has been more cut off from contact with the rest of the world than any other country of the Middle East except Yemen. Hence, it is less developed, its traditional customs are more rigid, and it has fewer Western features than its neighbors, again with the exception of Yemen.

You may wonder how the Saudi lived before oil was discovered in his barren land and Dhahran and Dammam grew into flourishing communities. Before you start feeling superior, remember that over the cen-



Saudi Bedouins with their sheep. Mutton is a delicacy.

turies he has learned to conquer his desert's worst terrors. After a bit you'll grow to admire his ability to take off into the desert's fierce heat and live off a few dates, camel's milk, and flour. You may also begin to understand why the Arabian desert produced Mohammed.

It's impossible for you to put yourself in the Arab's position, but you can try to understand him and adopt an attitude of friendly interest without criticism. The desert breeds independent spirits. Keep this in mind

when you are with Arabs, whether at work or socially, and treat them with courtesy and respect. As a member of our Armed Forces in Arabia, your duties are laid out for you. As an individual, it is what you do on your own that counts.

Saudi Arabia Strikes It Rich

The nation's industrial and economic life can be summed up in one word—OIL. Before oil was discovered and produced by the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco), the country's prospects were dim. Now, with almost \$300 million in oil royalties pouring in each year under normal circumstances, it has the means to build for the future.

Aramco is made up of 4 well known U.S. oil companies. The Aramco community at Dhahran is modern and self-sufficient. Air conditioning provides relief from the desert heat. There are shops stocked with American goods, a modern hospital, swimming pools, a club, movies, and a golf course.

By friendly advice to Saudi leaders, by educating Saudis on its payroll, and in other ways, Aramco is encouraging the development of modern institutions and methods. Its establishment at Dhahran serves as a model for a new and richer life.

The Arabian Government's responsibility for using the huge oil royalties wisely is a great one. There is



Saudi employee at Aramco's huge oil plant.

much to be done. A start has been made, but it's a slow business.

Some Bedouin tribesmen have been trained as oil workers by Aramco, but far more of them still live nomadic lives, moving their herds of camels and goats from one grazing region to another. Winter rains and irrigation permit a limited production of agricultural products. Date palms cover most of the arable land, and dates are probably the most important food crop.

Since 1934, the goldmining industry has been revived. The Saudi Arabian Mining Syndicate has numerous modern installations at Jidda and about 250 miles to the north.

The Government

Saudi Arabia, once a part of the Ottoman Empire, is primarily the creation of Ibn Saud (Sa-OOD), father of the present ruler. During the first quarter of this century, Ibn Saud seized Riyadh and Mecca, the two capitals. He succeeded in bringing most of the Arabian peninsula under his control by 1926 and proclaimed it the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932.

Although an absolute monarch, Ibn Saud gained wide respect for his accomplishments. He brought unity to his country, previously torn by tribal strife. He began the work of settling his nomadic people in permanent homes in villages, educating them, and im-

proving their living conditions. Although Saudi Arabia was neutral during World War II, Ibn Saud favored the Allies and left his country for the first time to meet with President Roosevelt on shipboard in the Suez Canal.

When Ibn Saud died in 1953, the oldest of his many sons, Saud ibn Abdul Aziz, became King. While King Saud's power is absolute, he is concerned for the welfare of his subjects. At specified hours, anyone, no matter how lowly, may see the King in person and ask his advice, pardon, or intercession. The King's word, once given, is law.

The King appoints a cabinet of ministers headed by a prime minister. He also appoints a Consultative Assembly, which meets occasionally to approve his plans and decisions.

Saudi Arabian law, aside from that laid down personally by the King, is based on the literal teachings of the Koran. Punishment is based on the old law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Fortunately, such penalties are not inflicted on Westerners.

Early in 1957 King Saud made an official visit to the United States. As a result, the agreement for our use of Dhahran Airfield was renewed for 5 years in return for military equipment.



King Saud, right, on a formal visit to Dhahran Airfield.

The Army

The Royal Saudi Arabian Army, with fewer men than an American infantry division, is effective in keeping order within the country. The soldiers are adept at desert warfare and can withstand severe hardship.

The army gets much of its training from the U.S. Army section of our Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG). The Saudis are eager to learn. Un-



Street scene in Riyadh, seat of Saudi Government.

accustomed as they are to machinery and regular hours of work, they are becoming dependable technicians and soldiers. Weapons from the United States and several European nations are also increasing the army's combat efficiency.

In addition to the army, there is a tribal militia of Bedouins (known as the "white army"). These irregulars, procured from individual sheiks or tribal chieftains by levy, are under the direct control of the King.

Dhahran

If you're headed for Dhahran, here are a few pointers that may be helpful:

First of all, the airfield is not a United States Air Force base. It is operated by the Saudi Arabian Government with the help of the U.S. Air Force. The U.S. Air Force is a tenant. Be a respected tenant and avoid trouble with your Saudi landlord.

Baggage inspection is routine. Be sure that your baggage contains no liquor or weapons. These items are forbidden by local laws, and offenders are fined heavily.

Dhahran Airfield is equipped with all the facilities normally found at U.S. bases at home and overseas. You can participate in or watch all kinds of organized sports. Clubs and movies can be enjoyed in air-conditioned comfort. A library, photograph laboratory, and hobby shop will help keep you entertained. If you have an easily transportable hobby, bring it along. You may also use the Aramco recreational facilities, including golf and swimming.

Base buses will take you to and from the Aramco settlement, about 3 miles away, and to Persian Gulf beaches. These buses, when available, will also take you to the few other places to go, such as Al Khobar and Dammam.

Sightseeing?

If you've read this far without skipping pages, you'll know that Saudi Arabia is no place for sightseers. The most famous sights—the holy cities of Mecca and Medina—are closed to all but Moslems. Nor can you visit any mosques in the country.

Even if there were points of interest open to you, they would be hard to reach. The country's one railroad covers but 350 miles—from Riyadh, the capital, to Dammam on the Persian Gulf.

The roads? Mere desert tracks for the most part, which drifting sand and flash floods can erase. Only about 200 miles of roads (second-class or poorer) can be used for driving. The number of automobiles is increasing, but it will take a long time for them to challenge the camel as the principal mode of transport.

Aside from wide expanses of desert scenery, there is little to look at. Hotels and restaurants are rare. You may, however, be able to visit places of interest outside the country, such as Beirut, Cairo, Asmara, or Bahrein Island.

Since most of your time will be spent on the base and at the Aramco settlement, where pure food and water are supplied, you won't have to worry too much about contracting the diseases that plague Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Middle East.

SMALL NEIGHBORS OF SAUDI ARABIA

Several small states round out the eastern and southern edges of the Arabian peninsula. The people living in them are mostly Arabic-speaking Moslems.

Three tiny sheikdoms are of particular importance today because of their huge oil resources. These—the Bahrein Islands, Kuwait, and Qatar—lie along the Persian Gulf and are protected by the British. These sheikdoms made pearl fishing a flourishing industry until strong competition from Japanese cultured pearls began in the 1920's. Recent discoveries of oil have brought prosperity again.

The Bahrein Islands, with an estimated population of 120,000 in 1954, are ruled by a sheik (pronounced shake). The income derived from oil, some \$12 million annually, the sheik invests abroad for the future benefit of his people while carrying out social welfare programs at home. Two American oil companies handle the oil production business.

The sheik of *Kuwait*, has been dubbed the richest man of the richest state in the world. With a population of 200,000, according to a 1954 estimate, and an oil income amounting to more than \$150 million annually (\$189 million in 1955), Kuwait has more



Saudi fishermen prepare to trap some Persian Gulf fish.

funds per capita for development than any of its neighbors. The ruler is investing some of the money abroad for the future benefit of the country and using the rest for the welfare of the people at home. Kuwait has a costly water distillation plant, excellent schools, and modern hospitals.

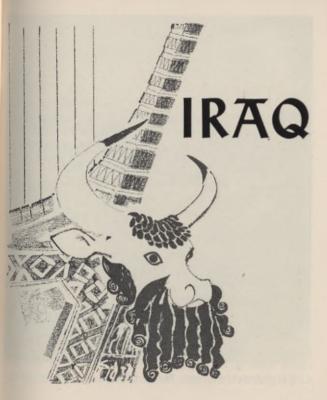
Qatar, a small finger of land reaching into the Persian Gulf, has grown rich from oil since 1940. Its sparse population, estimated at 30,000 in 1953, stands to benefit from an oil income even greater than that of

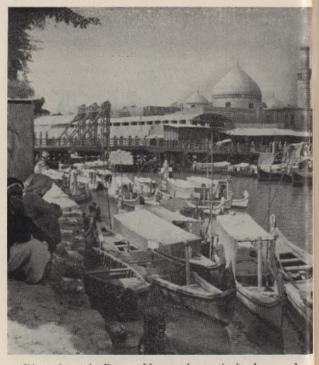
Bahrein because of the country's greater oil resources.

Along the southern rim of the Arabian peninsula are the sultanate of *Oman and Muscat*, ruled by Said bin Taimur; the British colony and protectorate of *Aden*; and the Kingdom of *Yemen*, under the rule of Imam Ahmad. The Oman-Muscat sultanate has close treaty ties with Great Britain. In these states, lacking the oil resources of the Persian Gulf sheikdoms, the people live much the same today as they have for centuries.



A fortune in pearls . . . from the Persian Gulf.





River front in Basra. Mosque looms in background.

Iraq has at least one great and permanent claim to fame—it's the site of the Biblical Garden of Eden, scholars say. Here, in the fertile plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which the Greeks called Mesopotamia (the country between two rivers), it is believed man first learned to till the soil. The land is less fertile now. The rivers have altered their courses to make the plain wider, and ruthless invaders centuries ago destroyed the canals that crossed the plain between the rivers.

Today the eyes of the world are riveted on Iraq, in the heart of the Middle East, for other reasons—its strategic location and its oil. The passing scene today is much like that of other Middle Eastern countries—verdant date groves and barren desert, camels and Cadillacs, mosques and gas stations, rags and riches.

About the size of Montana, Iraq is landlocked except for a bit that touches the north end of the Persian Gulf. The countries surrounding it are Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait. While part of Iraq south of the Euphrates is desert, much of the country is tillable. Lush groves of date palms grow in the south and wheat and other crops in the

north. The great green valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates are still extremely important to the many people who live there following agricultural pursuits. After flowing across the country in parallel channels, these rivers converge to form the Shatt-al-Arab, which empties into the Persian Gulf. Basra, near the junction of the rivers, is a port for oceangoing ships.

Oil had been oozing to the surface in Iraq and Iran for centuries before 20th-century producers began drilling wells to tap the extremely rich underground deposits. The Bedouins have found some novel uses for it—one is as a cure for mange in camels. Rich fields in the eastern part of the country, from Mosul in the north to Zubair in the south, are producing oil in enormous quantities. The wells, flowing under their own pressure, bring in thousands of barrels daily, whereas the wells in the United States produce but hundreds of barrels each day with the aid of artificially induced pressure. Pipelines carry the oil to the Persian Gulf and all the way across Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean.

The People

You may not like Iraq at first, with its heat, dust, odd and not always pleasant smells and sights. Just be patient. The Iraqi people will help you change your mind. There are all kinds of them, just as there are



Oil fields at Kirkuk provide steady jobs for many Iraqis.

all kinds of Americans. You may meet a Harvard-educated professor, a sophisticated artist, a well traveled businessman, a nomad of the desert, a merchant who sells his goods in lengthy bargaining, or a peasant shepherd of the mountains whose sheep and goats follow the grass and the seasons, moving back and forth across international borders.

The sparse population of about 5 million is mostly Arab. North of Basra, marsh Arabs live like no other Arabs of Iraq. They build their dwellings on little islands of mud cast up by the Shatt-al-Arab River, among reeds that grow as high as 30 feet. Each year the river deposits a little more soil from its bottom, increasing their holdings. This reclaimed land produces rice and pasturage for their small cattle.

Hardy Bedouin tribesmen prefer a nomadic life in the desert to settling down, but the Government's irrigation projects are gradually inducing them to take up the more secure life of a farmer.

The Kurds, a proud people with a reputation for their fighting qualities, live in the mountains and secluded valleys bordering Turkey and Iran. From a distance, Kurdish villages look like giant terraces on the hillsides. Their houses are built behind, and almost on top of, one another, following the incline of the land. Some Kurds are nomads, spending their summers in the mountains and their winters on the northern plains.



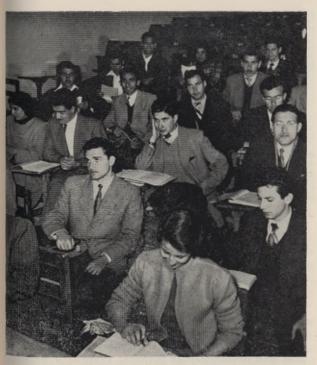
Kurds, rugged individualists, wear distinctive clothing.

The Kurds speak their own language and dress in their own distinctive fashion. The men wear embroidered "bell-bottom" trousers and short jackets, made from homespun or factory-produced cloth. The sleeves of the Kurd's shirt are so long that he wraps them around his wrists or, if he is at leisure, simply lets them trail out of the sleeves of his jacket. On his head he wears an elegant turban adorned with tassels hanging down all around. Equipped with a bandolier, a dagger in his wide sash, and a pistol or rifle in his belt or over his shoulder, the Kurd is a dashing individual.

As a rule, the Bedouins and peasants also cling to their ancient costumes, while the clothing of the city dwellers is often quite modern.

Most Iraqis are Arabic-speaking Moslems with the customs and qualities of Moslems throughout the Middle East. The Iraqis are even more devout than some of the others. Some of their mosques are closed at all times to "unbelievers," and to them you are an "unbeliever." Before you visit a mosque be sure it is open to visitors. If possible, go with a guide.

Whatever their station in life, you'll find Iraqis hospitable, generous, cheerful, and friendly. Make them your friends. If you eat a meal in the city home of an Iraqi, it will probably consist of a series of courses—possibly roast lamb, mazgouf of fish from the Tigris,



Coeducational college, Baghdad.

rice and sauces, pastries, and fruits. In the country home of an Iraqi, you might have to sit on the floor or ground and let your fingers serve for silverware. The menu will probably be much simpler, since many Iraqis live on dates, vegetables, bread, and goat's milk.

From Tents to Television

Iraq's huge income from oil is bringing a new look to the land and prosperity to the people. Each year the Government spends millions of dollars on projects to modernize the country and raise the standard of living. And there is still money left to invest for the future when the oil is used up, as it will be eventually.

Visitors who were there 5 years ago can hardly find their way around. Dams in the north are being built to control floods, store water, and generate electricity. Paved roads and new bridges are encouraging commerce and drawing the people of the country together. Modern factories are swelling the national income and providing job opportunities. Irrigation is increasing the farmers' crops. Schools are hastening the modernization process, while hospitals are being built to look after health needs. Iraq seems to know where she is going.

Increasingly, Iraqis are finding jobs in these industrial and developmental projects. There is a growing population of industrial workers, skilled technicians,



Women are assuming a greater role in the life of Iraq.

and professionals. People who had lived in tents or other primitive homes are finding jobs that give them undreamed of security. Television came to Baghdad in May 1956 and may well help educate the schoolchildren who grow up in dusty, backward communities. This, the Iraqis will tell you, is only the beginning.

Thousands of Iraqis work for the Iraq Petroleum Company. This British corporation, with U.S., Dutch, and French as well as British shareholders, provides through oil royalties, by far the greatest part of Iraq's income.

Agriculture is another growing source of income. The long, hot summers are ideal for the chief product—dates. Iraq grows enough of this nutritious fruit to feed her population and export more than any other country in the world. Modern plants process and package the dates. Some of the other important products are barley, wheat, rice, and tobacco.

The Government

Iraq spent many long years under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I when the Empire came to an end, the country became a mandate of Great Britain. This was a blow to the Iraqis who wanted immediate independence. After much argument and some rioting on the part of the Iraqis, the British recognized Iraq as a kingdom in 1922. Ten years later Iraq became fully independent.

Under the leadership of the present pro-Western ruler, young King Faisal II, Iraq has joined the Baghdad Pact, the only Arab nation to do so.

Iraq is a hereditary monarchy. The King's power is limited by a constitution. The Parliament is made up of two houses, the Chamber of Deputies elected by the people and the Senate whose members are appointed by the King to serve 8 years. The King appoints the Premier who heads a Council of Ministers.

The Armed Forces

Iraq's army contains 3 divisions. The air force consists of 3 squadrons and includes jet aircraft. The small navy is made up largely of a river flotilla.

Military training is compulsory and begins at the age of 18. However, no administrative machinery exists for effective mobilization of manpower. The training period usually lasts for 2 years.

Under a Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement between the United States and Iraq, Americans are helping to strengthen and develop the country. A United States Technical Mission is also providing technical assistance.

Points of Interest

You'll probably get your first glimpse of Iraq at Baghdad, the capital city, which has given its name to the Baghdad Pact, or at the port city of Basra. When you see the streets clogged with pedestrians, cars, carts, and carriages, to say nothing of camels and donkeys—all battling each other—and the crowded markets and tea shops, you'll think the entire population of the country is jammed into these cities.

There is little evidence today of Baghdad's ancient splendor, which reached its height under Caliph Haroun al Raschid for whom one of its streets is named.



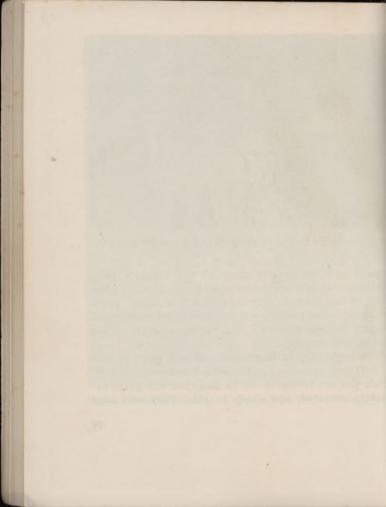
Basra's stall-lined bazaar attracts picturesque throngs.

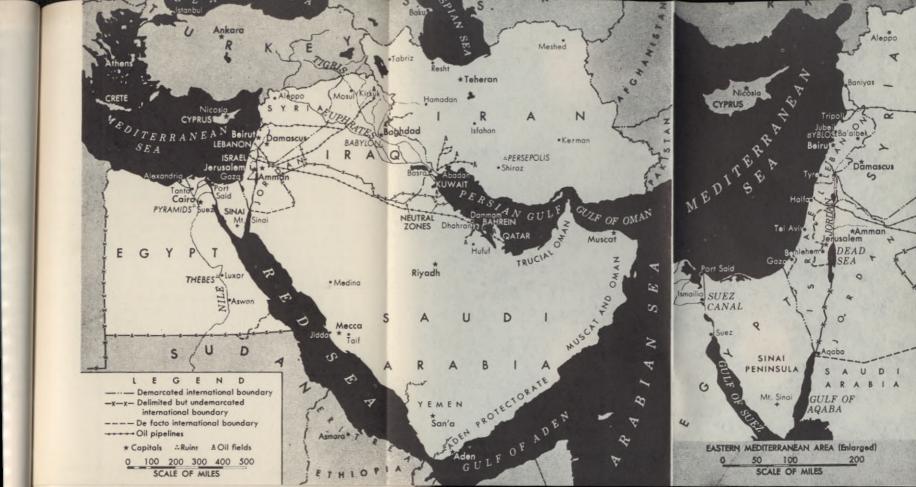


Busy square in Baghdad, Iraq's capital and largest city.

Around him are woven many of the fabulous tales Scheherazade told her husband in the Arabian Nights. Most of the ancient structures were of brick, much less durable than stone, and have crumbled away. Still, the city has charm, and it is a curious mixture of the ancient and modern.

It is customary in Baghdad to offer to pay the fare of a friend or acquaintance who boards the bus on which you are riding. Buses in Baghdad are clean, efficiently operated, and cheap to ride. They will take





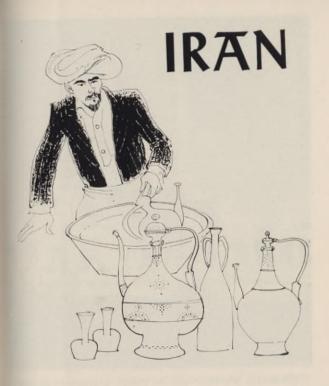
you to or near any place you might want to go. Since Baghdad taxis have no meters, you would do well to bargain with the driver over the price before you take a cab.

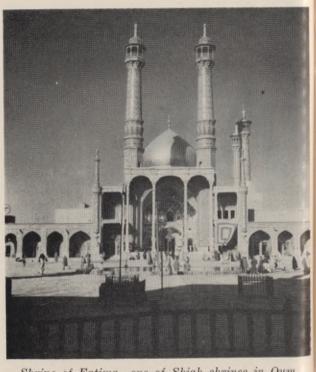
The ancient city of Babylon, now in ruins, was in existence several thousand years before the birth of Christ. This was the site of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world—the hanging gardens supposedly built by King Nebuchadnezzar under whom the city attained its greatest glory. Nebuchadnezzar also built the famous Walls of Babylon.

Nippur, an ancient city south of Baghdad, is the delight of archeologists who dig about in its ruins. At Ctesiphon, another ancient ruined city, you can see the remains of one of the finest examples of the old structures of Iraq. The city called Nineveh in the Bible is now Mosul. Ur, where Abraham was born, is now known as Muqaiyir.

This doesn't exhaust the possibilities by any means. Do a little reading about Iraq and see what you can

dig up for yourself in the way of places to go.





Shrine of Fatima—one of Shiah shrines in Qum.

IRAN

The U.S.S.R., along Iran's 1,500-mile northern border, is a constant threat to Iran. The two countries share the Caspian Sea. To the east of Iran are Afghanistan and Pakistan. Iran's southern coast is washed by the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf. To the west are Iraq and Turkey.

Iran, widely called Persia except by the people who live there, is about a fourth the size of the United States. The country is a broad, dry plateau almost entirely surrounded by mountains. The highest peak—Mt. Demavend—reaches upward more than 18,000 feet. In the interior, sand dunes tower from extensive salt deserts. The narrow coastal plain of the Caspian Sea is the only part of the country cultivated intensively. Here, too, are Iran's forests.

The serious shortage of water, except in the mountains and along the coastal plains, is the greatest headache of the Iranians. The many methods used to store and transport nature's stingy supply are often ancient and crude, but they demonstrate the resource-fulness of the people. There are wells, water troughs, water tanks, water wheels, and water hoists. A network of ghanats, a system of underground water chan-

nels invented by the ancient Persians, radiates from every town and village. Shafts at intervals along their course provide access to the tunnels and ventilate them.

Iranians have the general characteristics and customs of the peoples of other Moslem countries. If there is such a person as a "typical" Iranian, he might be described as having fair to olive skin, black hair and heavy eyebrows, large and lustrous eyes, and a prominent nose.

The ancient splendor and variety of Iranian clothing is vanishing. In an effort to Westernize the country, Reza Shah Pahlevi, father of the present ruler, ordered men and women to get into modern dress. The veil-like cloak (chadur) that engulfs the female figure is on its way out. A sort of fez is replacing the turban.

The Shiite branch of Islam is the official religion of Iran, but many of the people cling to beliefs much older. To them the world is peopled with fairies, genii, and other unseen spirits—good and bad. Wandering Moslem dervishes, with their begging bowls and distinctive costumes, can be seen occasionally. These deeply religious people produce a trance by fasting, meditation, or music and dancing—hence the expression "whirling dervishes."



Moslem dervish. Figure of Mohammed's hand tops staff.

The Picture Today

Like the rest of the Middle East, Iran's soil was trampled by the feet of many invaders in ancient times. Today the attention of the West is drawn to the country for two big reasons—its oil and its Communist neighbor to the north.

The British and Russians moved into the country during both World Wars. In World War II, the United States stationed personnel of the Persian Gulf Command there to move supplies into the Soviet Union. In accordance with wartime agreements, Great Britain and the United States withdrew promptly at the close of the war, but the Soviet forces lingered until they were forced out by diplomatic pressure in 1946.

The United States is doing much to strengthen Iran's economy and to help the country resist aggression. We give more technical assistance to Iran than to any other Middle Eastern nation. Our Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) and military missions are helping train the Iranian military forces in the use of weapons and equipment provided by the United States.

Iran is a member of the collective defense alliance against aggression called the Baghdad Pact. The United States maintains a military liaison group at the Pact's Baghdad headquarters and works closely with it in economic matters and in combating Soviet-



Woman and donkeys thresh grain near cliff city.

inspired propaganda and other Communist activities. As a result of our assistance to Iran, we have developed ties of friendship and respect in military and civilian circles.

A quick look at conditions today will show you why our help is needed. Although rich in oil, Iran is basically a poor country. More than three-quarters of the population of some 16 million are either members of nomadic tribes or peasants who live in villages or on the land much as they have for the last thousand



A bird's-eye view of Abadan refineries—world's largest.

years. Usually in debt to his landlord, the peasant struggles eternally for enough food to ward off starvation. The tribesmen move their tents and assorted livestock back and forth between summer and winter quarters. The oil fields, offering steady jobs, are luring many from their tribal life. Naturally there are a few rich people, too, who live quite differently.

The oil refineries at Abadan—the largest in the world—supply the needs of most of Western Europe. They are operated under an agreement between the Iranian Government and 8 Western companies. The income from the oil is helping finance an ambitious program of the Iranian Government to transform the country's economy, educate its youth, and improve the general welfare.

While oil puts Iran in the stream of international commerce, there are other important occupations. About 80 percent of the people are engaged in agriculture, which depends largely on irrigation. Rice, wheat, barley, fruits, tobacco, and cotton are some of the crops. Rugs are superbly made from high-quality wool. Americans import about three million dollars' worth a year. The mellow hues of Shiraz, Tabriz, Kerman, and Hamadan rugs are world-famous.

Until recent years, Iran possessed little modern machinery and few large factories. Rugs, intricate sil-



Hamadan, at foot of mountains, is famous for rugs.

verware, fine paintings, and other skilled handicrafts were turned out at small establishments. They still are. However, large factories equipped with modern machinery are being built by the Government in an attempt to industrialize the country as quickly as possible.

The Government

Until recently Iran was a feudal state ruled by an all-powerful Shah who was held in check only by religious leaders. Even after Iran became a constitutional monarchy in 1907, Parliament was overshadowed by the ruler. Gradually the National Assembly be-

gan to take over the powers and authority of government.

The upper house of Parliament, the Senate, is composed of 60 members, half of them elected and the other half appointed by the Shah. The more important lower house or *Majlis* has 136 members who are elected by males over 21 years of age. The Premier is chosen by the *Majlis*. His program must be approved by both houses.

The judicial branch is patterned after the French



Persian rug in the making.

system, with commercial, criminal, and civil codes. In remote villages and among some of the tribes, the *mullah* or Moslem "priest" is still the judge and magistrate for all disputes.

Control of the country is centralized in the Government at Teheran, since the Shah appoints governors of the provinces and mayors of cities.

Reza Shah Pahlevi, father of the present Shah, became ruler in 1926. His tremendous energy and ambition brought the country from feudalism into the 20th century. He might be accused of moving too fast, but his accomplishments were enormous. He introduced new laws, created a national bank, built factories, put a railroad through from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea, made education free and compulsory, and ordered the people to wear modern clothing.

These were tremendous and sudden changes for a nation of individualists unaccustomed by nature to speed. In spite of his sweeping program of Westernization, Reza Shah did not depart entirely from Iranian traditions. He fostered a rebirth of ancient arts and crafts that were dying out and encouraged the preservation of older forms of architecture.

Reza Shah's excessive use of power in his later years led to his downfall. Partial to Germany during World War II, he was forced to abdicate. He died in exile in South Africa in 1944.

Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, Reza Shah's son, is the present ruler. He has distributed a great many of his extensive acres among landless peasants and encourages wealthy Iranian landowners to follow his example. Twice he visited the United States—in 1949 and in 1953.

The Armed Forces

The Shah is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, just as our President heads our military establishment. Under the Shah is the supreme staff, controlling the army, air force, and navy, and a separate general staff for each of the services. All males are subject to the draft upon coming of age, but not many are called because of lack of funds and facilities.

Sightseeing

There are sights well worth seeing in Iran, both natural and manmade—ancient cities with the latest Western touches, celebrated mosques, bazaars that make you think time has turned backward, camel caravans, all kinds of costumes, flowering courtyards, and snow-covered peaks. Most of the sights beyond walking distance can be reached one way or another if you aren't too fussy about arriving on schedule and are in a mildly pioneering mood.

The important towns and cities are linked by roads.



Carts, animals, pedestrians vie with autos, Teheran.

Since only about 15 percent of the roads are paved, be prepared for a few jolts. Cars, buses, and taxis—some the last word by American standards, others venerable conveyances well past their prime—use these roads. Taxis are available in the larger cities at a reasonable fare. Taxi drivers, apparently, are the only persons in the Middle East in a hurry. They hurtle through the streets, indifferent to obstacles in their paths.

You can go by rail from the Persian Gulf to the

Caspian Sea. Iran's railway system is rather new, dating from 1938 when the Trans-Iranian Railway was completed. It took extensive tunneling and bridging to get the railway through some of the most difficult terrain in the world. There are 4 classes of rail accommodations. First- and second-class carriages compare somewhat with upper-class compartments on European trains. Third class has wooden seats. Fourth class merely provides covered cars.

Most major towns and cities can be reached by planes of Iranian Airways. You'll want to see Teheran, the capital city, and the ruins of Persepolis, the ancient capital. Persepolis, founded by Darius the Great (521-486 B. C.), was sacked and burned by Alexander in 331 B. C. Isfahan has many points of interest in addition to its famed mosques and bazaars. Shiraz, the home of two of Iran's greatest poets, Saadi and Hafiz, boasts two rare modern improvements-a supply of pure piped water and a modern medical center. Omar Khayyam, whose poetry is well known to English-speaking peoples through the translation by Edward Fitzgerald, lived at ancient Nishapur, destroyed twice by earthquakes and again by the Mongols. You may want to visit some of the ports on the Caspian Sea or Persian Gulf, or possibly take a turn around the Abadan refineries. These are just a sample of the places to be seen,



School safety patrol system, Teheran, modeled on ours.

The large American and foreign community in Iran will give you an opportunity for a varied social life. The Iran-American Society arranges programs of square dancing, concerts, lectures, and get-togethers. Popular outdoor sports are swimming and skiing.

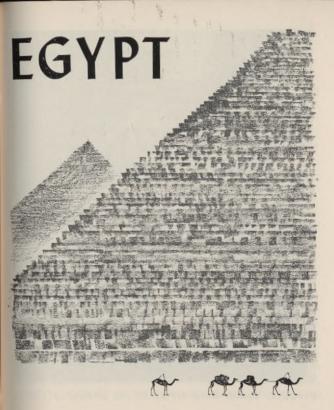
Food and Beverages

A great many Iranians subsist on cheese made from the milk of sheep or goats and, depending upon the region, bread or rice. Chicken and eggs are fairly common, but meat is a rare delicacy. The wealthier classes have a more varied and tempting diet. You may get a chance to try some of their dishes.

The staple of most meals is rice mixed with a variety of herbs, eggs, meat, or onions. This is called horeshk. Very young lambs, stuffed with raisins and rice and stewed in vine leaves, are a great delicacy. Mutton is also eaten, as are chicken and partridge, but cattle are too old when slaughtered for beef to be popular. The best meat is prepared as kebabs, grilled in chunks with fat and onions over a brazier. Eggs may be fried and sprinkled with sugar or served as an omelet with a mixture of chopped onions and greens. Unfortunately for American taste, these dishes are generally overcharged with mutton fat, known as roghan or ghee.

Oranges, nectarines, grapes, apricots, peaches, and very large melons can be had in season. Nuts include almonds, pistachios, hazelnuts, and walnuts.

Pure water is available only at Shiraz, at the Abadan refineries, and from the Shah's *ghanat* at Teheran. Tea, coffee, sherbets (*sharbat*), and wine are common Iranian beverages. Sherbets are sweetened fruit drinks prepared from syrups of quince, lemon, orange, or mint poured over crushed ice. Wines vary from sweet and heavy to extremely dry. Although frequently very new, raw, and strong, these wines are often preferable to available water.





Crowded, bazaar-lined street in old section of Cairo.

EGYPT

Civilization began several thousand years before the birth of Christ, in the fertile valleys of the rivers Nile, the Tigris and Euphrates, and the Indus. Egypt, land of the Nile, is of vital interest today because of the Suez Canal and the country's great influence in the Arab world.

The most highly populated of the Arab states, Egypt is roughly the size of Texas and New Mexico combined. Nearly all of it (about 96 percent) is desert. The Nile, 4,000 miles long, is the country's lifeblood. Its fertile valley and delta contain practically all of the country's farming land and almost the entire population of about 22 million. In these areas the density of population is one of the highest in the world—1,600 per square mile.

Here in great poverty live the fellahin (peasants) who make up the great majority of Egypt's population. On land owned mostly by wealthy landlords, the fellahin produce Egypt's food and the long-staple cotton that constitutes the country's chief export. The village home of the fellah (singular of fellahin) is made of sun-dried mud bricks. It has a single entrance, used by animals as well as people, and one window.

A coarse bread made of millet is the chief item of the *fellahin* diet. When they can afford it, they eat camel meat. Since leanness is associated with the illfed lower classes, Egyptians consider corpulence a sign of health, beauty, and social distinction.

There are also desert tribesmen in Egypt who live much as others of this type do throughout the Middle East. More fortunate than the *fellahin* and tribesmen is a middle class composed of merchants, professional men, and students. And most fortunate of all are the immensely wealthy landlords.

Most Egyptians are Moslems and observe the usual Moslem customs. Among the upper classes, you'll find eating habits similar to our own. But in most households Egyptians eat Arab-style—using only the right hand to pick food from a common plate. In addition to Moslems, there is a small group of Christians, called Copts, and an even smaller number of Jews.

While most Egyptians speak Arabic, you'll find English spoken in varying degrees by all classes, especially in the cities. In the larger cities, men and women dress much like Americans. The *fellahin* wear the traditional blue gown and brown skullcap.

The large cities, especially Cairo and Alexandria, have modern sections of European design. They give you the impression that you are in a Western country. "Egypt for Egyptians" is the national sentiment. Egypt, the people there firmly believe, is THE Arab nation. Although the Egyptian resents outside influence, especially from the West, he'll treat you right if you treat him right.

Farming is the principal occupation. The Government has started a land reform program with the object of breaking up the huge estates and giving the fellahin a chance to own the land they till. Industry includes sugar refining, cotton processing, textile production, and petroleum refining.

The Egyptian Government wants to improve the country's economy and raise the standard of living. It hopes to develop the water resources of the Nile for irrigation and hydroelectric power.

The Government

Egypt developed a great civilization under the rule of a series of mighty Pharaohs early in its history. The Sphinx and the Pyramids are impressive monuments of this period.

A long period of foreign domination, lasting until recent times, began in 525 B. C. with the Persian conquest of Egypt. Great Britain was the last of the foreign powers to control the country.

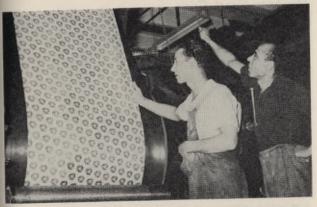
Egypt was a kingdom until 1952, when a group of young Army officers deposed King Farouk and took



Father and sons labor side by side in his cotton field.

over the government. In 1953, with the adoption of a constitution, Egypt became a republic under President Gamal Abdel Nasser, leader of the revolt against Farouk.

Although Egypt is called a republic, the present government is actually a dictatorship. Strongly nationalistic, Nasser is determined to eliminate Western influence from Egypt. In 1955 he made an arms deal with the Soviet Union and began purchasing (on future cotton deliveries) guns, tanks, planes, and other



Two workers in an Egyptian cotton textile plant.

military equipment from Czechoslovakia. The following year he made an agreement with Syria and Jordan to combine their armed forces under Egyptian command in the event of war with Israel.

Like the other Arab states, Egypt is violently hostile to Israel. Since the failure of the Arab war to "push Israel into the sea," border raids and reprisals have been a constant occurrence, an economic boycott has been in force, and Egypt has kept the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba closed to Israel's shipping.

The Suez Canal Crisis

In July 1956, one month after the last British troops had left the Canal Zone, President Nasser abruptly nationalized the Suez Canal Company. This act greatly disturbed the major shipping and trading nations of the world. Egypt rejected their combined efforts at a direct settlement, but agreed to negotiate through the United Nations. However, in October 1956, before the process had gone very far, Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, from which many raids had come. A few days later, Britain and France attacked Port Said. Egypt sank ships and equipment in the Canal, blocking it for months.

The United States, believing the invasion of Egypt a mistake, pressed in the United Nations for a cease-fire and withdrawal of troops so that peaceful negotiations could be resumed. Quick action by the United Nations brought an end to fighting and the withdrawal of the invading forces. The British and French retired at once. The Israelis withdrew more slowly, particularly from the area of the Gulf of Aqaba and from the Gaza Strip. As the invading forces withdrew, a hastily organized UN Emergency Force (UNEF) moved into Egypt and the Gaza Strip to enforce the cease-fire. While a major war was averted, the underlying causes of the crisis remain unsolved.



Suez Canal, artery of commerce, source of tension.

The Armed Forces

Egypt has an army, air force, and navy. Of these, the army is by far the strongest. It is also the largest of the Arab armies. The regular army is estimated to consist of about 100,000 men. A 3-year period of military service is required of all young men, but disease and other factors exempt many.

Sightseeing

You'll want to see many relics of the past glory of Egypt. At Giza, near Cairo, are three huge Pyra-

mids and the most famous example of the Sphinx. The Pyramids, erected as tombs for the ancient rulers, represent an incredible amount of back-breaking human labor in an era when the primary tool was human brawn. The Sphinx is a colossal figure carved from rock to guard the valley of the Nile.

The ruins of two ancient capitals, *Memphis* and *Thebes*, are worth seeing. At Memphis, now called Mit Rahina, are the temple of the god Ptah, palaces, and tombs. On the Nile far to the south, near *Luxor*, are the ruins of ancient *Thebes* where the temples of Luxor and Karnak can be seen by crossing the river. The *Valley of Kings*, also in this area, is most impressive. Here are the tombs of ancient rulers, some of them far underground. Here, too, the well preserved tomb of Tutankhamen was discovered in 1922.

Cairo, the capital and largest city of Egypt, is the educational and industrial center of the country. Much of the city is quite modern. A few miles northeast of Cairo are the ruins of ancient Heliopolis, dedicated to the sun god, Ra. New York and London each have one of its ancient obelisks, called Cleopatra's Needles.

Alexandria is the most important port and the commercial center of Egypt. A peninsula that used to be the island of *Pharos* is where the seventh wonder of the world—the lighthouse of Alexandria—used to stand. An earthquake destroyed the lighthouse in the 13th century. Like Cairo, Alexandria is a bustling, upto-date city.

Both Cairo and Alexandria were Allied bases during World War II. At *El Alamein*, west of Alexandria, British Marshal Montgomery stopped German Marshal

Rommel's push toward Suez.

It isn't hard to get around by motor or rail if you stick to the Mediterranean coast and the Nile valley. Roads and railroads connect Alexandria, Port Said, Cairo, and Aswan. Almost half of the country's automobiles are in and around Cairo. You'll also see more ancient forms of transport—Arabian horses, camels, and donkeys.

The Nile itself and the Suez Canal are important arteries for trading and passenger traffic. Cairo International Airport is the major airport for civilian planes.

ISRAEL





Israel's port of Haifa.

ISRAEL

People of many nations have been visiting the Holy Land, the birthplace of Judaism and Christianity, for hundreds of years. If you go there, you'll want to know something about Israel, for this new Middle Eastern State occupies the western part of the Holy Land.

About the size of New Jersey, Israel is located squarely on the eastern end of the Mediterranean and is bordered by Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Small as the country is, its terrain varies from mountains and hills in the north and central parts to the Negev desert in the south. Along its 100-mile Mediterranean coast is a fertile plain.

The Jordan is Israel's most important river by far and also the source of some friction with Jordan and Syria, since it is shared by all three countries. The river rises in the hills of Galilee and empties into the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea, 1,286 feet below sea level, is the lowest body of water on the earth's surface.

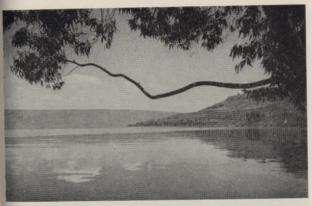
A majority of Israel's population of about 1,750,000 are immigrants from all parts of the globe. Any Jew in the world has the right to settle in Israel. When he is admitted as an immigrant, he automatically becomes a citizen. The mass immigration into Israel is known as the "Ingathering of the Exiles."

Naturally, the tremendous influx into Israel in the few years of its life as a nation has brought great problems. The newcomers, often arriving penniless and with their worldly possessions tied in a bundle, must be given shelter, food, and jobs. They speak many languages, wear many types of clothing, and have backgrounds and customs as varied as those of the countries from which they come.

One thing all citizens of Israel have in common—the desire to preserve their new state as a refuge from persecution the world over. Another thing shared by most of the people is the faith of Judaism, although there are wide differences in its practice. Some hold very strict orthodox views, adhering closely to ancient teachings, while others practice a more modern and liberal faith.

Judaism, like Christianity, has roots in Old Testament tradition. No business is transacted on the Sabbath, which runs from sundown on Friday until sundown Saturday, the Jewish day of rest. Normal activities resume from Saturday night until the next Sabbath.

Important holidays observed by the Jews are Independence Day, 14 May; Rosh Hashana (New Year); Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement); Hanukkah (Festival of Lights); and the Passover. The dates of the religious holidays vary from year to year.



Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee).

Education is compulsory for children from 5 to 13 years of age. Hebrew is taught in all the schools, and English is a second language taught in many. Road signs are printed in Hebrew, English, and Arabic.

Israel has always had to depend on foreign funds to exist but is trying desperately to become self-sufficient. The country apparently has few natural resources of any kind. Oil was discovered in relatively small quantities in 1955. The Dead Sea yields potash and other chemicals. There are also ceramic clays and



A Bedouin market at Beersheba in the Negev desert.

phosphates of medium grade. Industry is hampered by lack of raw materials.

Even food has to be imported to some extent. Meat is scarce, but seafood is abundant. Vegetables, milk, and milk products are plentiful. Citrus fruits are grown and exported.

The Negev desert, where archeologists have unearthed copper deposits while digging for ancient relics, is being made productive by irrigation. Israelis



Israeli youth tends oranges when military duty permits.

are trying to generate electricity from the wind and energy from the sun. They are exploring every possibility for development.

A great many Israelis work in modern industries that produce such things as refrigerators and radios. Skilled craftsmen are cutting diamonds for export. Farming is an important occupation, although hampered by the scarcity of water.

Unemployment is low in Israel, and wages are high



Zion Square in the New City of Jerusalem in Israel.

by Middle Eastern standards. Because of the scarcity of goods, the cost of living is also high. There are modern cities, museums, libraries, orchestras, theatrical companies, a Hebrew National Opera, newspapers in several languages, and radio stations.

Israel has licked many of its health problems. Most of the food and water is pure. Only the three largest cities—Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa—have water-carried sewage, though.

The United States maintains a policy of friendship with Israel, as with other countries of the Middle East. Economic and technical aid and loans from the United States are helping Israel out of the red. Through educational exchange programs of the U.S. Government and private agencies, some Americans are studying in Israel and some Israelis in the United States.

The Government

The Republic of Israel, headed by a President, has a one-chamber parliament called the *Knesset*. The *Knesset* elects the President for a term of 5 years. Members of the *Knesset* are elected by popular vote every 4 years. David Ben-Gurion, the present Premier, heads the cabinet. The Government is located in Jerusalem.

The Armed Forces

Israel's army is considered one of the best in the Middle East. There are about 80,000 regular troops. In addition, some 120,000 reserves can be mobilized very rapidly. The air and naval forces, although smaller than the army, are highly efficient.

The armed forces are generally well trained and equipped, their morale is high, and they create few disciplinary problems. Women as well as men are drafted and may be called upon to serve in combat situations. Although few traditions have developed as yet, the Israeli forces have great national pride and are determined to keep their homeland independent. Success in battle has given them confidence. They will attempt to stop any invader, no matter how strong.

Sightseeing

Tel Aviv, on the Mediterranean coast, is the largest city and was Israel's first capital. This city is quite new and modern. It is a port for light shipping.

Haifa is the main port of Israel, Lydda has the principal commercial airfield. Air service is furnished by several air lines. Rail lines and reasonably good roads run along the coast and to major cities.

Jerusalem's ancient shrines are in the Jordan sector of the city. (See pages 8 through 11.) Acre, ruled by



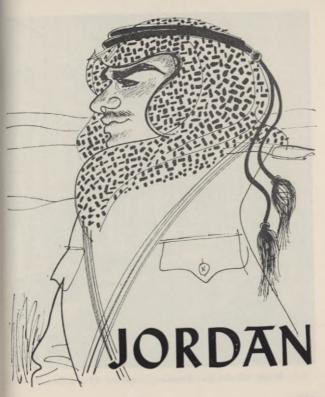
Dizengoff Square in residential section of Tel Aviv.

many conquerors, the Crusaders made a part of their Kingdom of Jerusalem in the 12th and 13th centuries. The turrets and battlements there are reminders of the Crusades. Pilgrims bound for Jerusalem used to land at Jaffa (ancient Joppa), a secondary port.

Nazareth, where Jesus lived as a child, is the largest Arab settlement in Israel. The Talmud, ancient book of Jewish civil and religious law, was edited at Tiberias, a former center of Jewish learning named for the Roman emperor Tiberius. Many early immigrants

settled at Safad, which was fortified in the days of the Crusaders.

For further tips on sightseeing, ask the Israelis.





Main street in Amman, capital of Jordan.

JORDAN

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan attracts thousands of foreign visitors to its holy places each year. In fact the tourist trade, next to agriculture, is its most profitable business. If you are among the foreigners who go there, you should know a few basic facts about the country and the Jordanians.

Jordan, about the size of Indiana, is bordered by Israel and three Arab countries—Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria. It touches on the Red Sea at Aqaba. The country, harsh and rugged, is mostly an arid plateau. The Jordan River and its Yarmuk River tributary are the only sources for irrigation and hydroelectric power. The small part of the country lying west of the Hedjaz Railroad is the most productive.

Jordan's population, largely Arabic-speaking Moslems, is estimated to be about 1,400,000. An accurate census hasn't been taken since the time of Augustus Caesar. About 100,000 of the people are Arab refugees from Israel. Another 400,000 are Palestinian Arabs living on the land annexed by Jordan in the Arab-Israeli war.

Most of the population is crammed into the small part of the country suitable for farming. Farming and



Farming is Jordan's major business.

herding are the principal occupations. The most important crops are grains, fruits, and vegetables. Fresh fruits and vegetables are exported.

There are no important natural resources, aside from phosphate deposits, and no industrial plants. As in ancient times, the people operate olive oil presses and flour mills by hand. Rugs and carpets are woven on hand looms. Motor power is very rare.

Although some Jordanians are wealthy, poverty is



Bargaining for livestock at market in Amman.

widespread. The United States is giving technical aid to Jordan, and the average Jordanian appreciates it. Projects are being planned to develop the country and give jobs to the many unemployed. Before full use can be made of the Jordan-Yarmuk waters, a satisfactory agreement must be reached with Israel. The port of Aqaba is being developed.

Jordan has one railroad. There are airports at Amman and Jerusalem.

The Government

Formerly a part of the Ottoman Empire, Jordan was separated from the Palestine mandate by Great Britain after World War I. Transjordan, as it was called, was placed under a Hashemite prince, Emir Abdullah. Great Britain gave full independence to Transjordan in 1946, when its name was changed to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Emir Abdullah became King.

During the Arab-Israeli war (1948-1949), Jordan's Arab Legion crossed the Jordan River to occupy the Arab part of Palestine, which today is administered as a part of Jordan.

King Abdullah hoped to strengthen the ties between the Arab states and to establish peaceful relations with Israel, but was assassinated in 1951. Young King Hussein, his grandson and the present ruler, is a second cousin of Iraq's King Faisal.

Principal authority, under the King, is vested by the constitution in a National Assembly of two chambers. The King appoints the Senate, and the people elect the Chamber of Deputies. The King also appoints a Premier to head the cabinet. The cabinet is responsible to the National Assembly.



Members of Jordan's Arab Legion.

The Army

Jordan's army, the small but well-equipped Arab Legion, was commanded by British Sir John Bagot Glubb until King Hussein dismissed him in 1956. The army is organized into one infantry division and one armored brigade, including supply and service troops. Its morale is high and its members are well paid in comparison with those of other Arab armies. There is keen competition to enlist.

Sightseeing

A number of places in Jordan are of interest. From Mount Nebo (Mount Pisgah) Moses viewed the Promised Land. Joshua, who led the Israelites into the Promised Land, captured *Jericho* and *Hebron*. According to tradition, Abraham and Sarah were buried at Hebron.

Christian visitors are particularly interested in the Church of the Nativity at *Bethlehem* and the shrines associated with Christ's death in *Jerusalem*.

Amman, the capital, has an old section (ancient Philadelphia) with an open-stalled bazaar and a modern section containing the King's palaces and Government buildings. The ruins of Petra, an ancient city carved from rose-tinted rock, and of Jerash are remarkable.

SYRIA



Street in Damascus, one of world's oldest cities.

SYRIA

If you go to Syria, you'll be in one of the most interesting and colorful areas of the Middle East. In this sunny Mediterranean country, about the size of Missouri, you'll see acres of orchards, stony deserts, massive mountain ranges, the black hills of the volcanic Jebel Druze, fertile plains, and the swampy Chab marshes. And the population of about 3,800,000 you'll find just as varied in appearance.

Syria is bounded by Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, and Lebanon. The Euphrates River cuts across it diagonally; the Orontes flows north past Homs and Hama; the Barada and its branches make a lush garden spot of the Damascus area; and the Tigris touches the northeast border. This helps explain why Syria is an agricultural country, producing important quantities of wheat, barley, cotton, and many varieties of fruits. Dried apricots and raisins are exported. Olives are made into olive oil.

Three-fourths of the people are farmers who live frugally with their animals in mud huts. Except for extensive orchards, trees are so scarce that sun-baked clay or mud brick is the chief building material, used not only for the farmers' dwellings but often for those of the landowners as well. In some areas, you'll find buildings of stone.

Since there is no firewood, dried dung serves for cooking fuel. The farmer's diet is simple—bread baked in flat cakes, *leven* (somewhat like cream cheese), and possibly vegetables and fruits. Meat is for festive occasions.

Although the Government has passed land reform legislation, most of the land remains in the hands of rich landowners who live much more lavishly—often in the cities. The Bedouins, of course, roam the fringes of the desert with their herds.

In the cities, you'll see modern apartment houses, villa-type homes, and Western-style clothing.

Syria is planning to drain the Chab marshes, extend the road and rail networks, increase electric power, irrigate more land, develop the only port—Latakia, and expand industry. Industrial plants are now turning out textiles, glass, and cement in important quantities.

While most Syrians are Arabic-speaking Moslems, you'll find other languages spoken and other religions. French is widely spoken in the larger towns and cities, reflecting the former French influence on the country. Some of the younger Syrians speak English.

Christians of various sects make up 14 percent of the population. There are other minorities, too, reminders of earlier periods of Syria's history.

The Government

The Levant (now Syria and Lebanon), once a part of the Ottoman Empire, was administered under a French mandate after World War I. Syria resented being a ward of France and was almost constantly in a state of revolt until World War II. The country was proclaimed an independent republic in 1941 after British and Free French forces ousted its Vichy government. Not until 1946, however, did the last of the foreign troops withdraw and the Syrians gain complete independence.

Legislative authority is vested in a one-house parliament elected by the people, women as well as men. The President chooses a Premier who forms a government.

The Armed Forces

Syria has an army of about 60,000 men and a small air force and navy. Military service is compulsory, but the time served can be shortened by a payment to the army. A large percentage of the military equipment is from the Soviet Union. Centuries of foreign domination in the past and the unstable political and economic situation of the country at present work against military effectiveness.

Sightseeing

You can go by road, rail, or air to the principal cities. The famous Baghdad-Istanbul railway runs along the northern border. Air-conditioned buses connect Damascus, the capital, with Baghdad. This trip across what seems to be trackless desert is certainly worth taking.

Damascus, said to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, is beautifully green and inviting from any approach. Here are modern apartments and ancient ruins—Parisian-type shops and one of the most fascinating old bazaars of the Middle East. The beautiful Omayyad Mosque is one of the classic structures of early Islam. It contains a shrine of John the Baptist that is revered by both Moslems and Christians. You can see the Biblical "Street called Straight" and the wall where St. Paul was let down in a basket.

Aleppo, Homs, and Hama are all very old cities with interesting reminders of the past. Palmyra, once ruled by Queen Zenobia, flourished in the days when caravans stopped there. Majestic ruins indicate its ancient glory. Latakia is famous for its fine tobacco, used to flavor American varieties. A well-preserved Crusader castle, Krak des Chevaliers, which kept the Saracens at bay, is a fine example of military architecture. It overlooks the coastal plain.

LEBANON





Modern apartments overlook port of Beirut, Lebanon.

LEBANON

Lebanon is a beautiful country of seashore, high mountains, fertile plains, barren desert, olive groves, orchards, and bright flowers. The Mediterranean is warm enough to swim in most of the year. Skiing is possible in the mountains in the winter. Many foreign tourists visit the country's resorts every year.

On the land side, Lebanon is bounded by Israel and Syria. The country is smaller than Connecticut. Its population, including Arab refugees, is less than 1,500,000. The standard of living is higher than in most of the other Middle Eastern countries. There are several reasons for this—a wide variety of crops can be grown in its climate; it does a big volume of business with Europe; and its literacy rate is comparatively high. The coastal cities are among the most progressive in the Middle East.

The 100-mile-long Litani River is the longest in the country. It is hoped that the Litani can be used to irrigate more farm land and increase the electric supply.

Lebanon differs from other Arab countries in that about half of its people are Christians. Most of the others are Moslems. The President of the Lebanese Republic is always a Christian and the Prime Minister a Moslem.

Arabic is the chief language of Lebanon. For years French was the main European language, but now many Lebanese speak English as well. The American University at Beirut, pioneering in college education, has helped spread the English language. Through its students and graduates from all parts of the Middle East, it exercises great influence throughout the Arab world.

About 60 percent of the Lebanese are farmers. Most of the others work in small shops, but there are a few modern factories in Beirut and Tripoli. Bankers, sheiks, and religious leaders, totaling about 5 percent of the population, control most of the nation's money. The country produces fruits, wine, tobacco, cotton, wheat, and silk. Oil pipelines from Iraq and Saudi Arabia terminate on its Mediterranean coast. Beirut is a bustling seaport and center of commerce.

Buildings in the coastal cities are modern in design. Those in the interior are usually made of limestone or mud. In Lebanon, as in other parts of the Middle East, families like to stick together. You'll find groups of attached houses clustered about a courtyard.

Bread, rice, boiled wheat (burghul), lentils, and beans are important items of the people's diet. Although meat is a luxury, vegetables and fruits are plentiful.



Mild climate and beaches make Beirut a tourist resort.

Milk is usually consumed in the form of yoghurt and cheese. The wealthier Lebanese, influenced by the French, use spices and wines in cooking.

Clothing habits of Lebanon have become generally Westernized. A few men wear the fez, and you may occasionally see a veiled Moslem woman in the small villages.

The Government

Like Syria, Lebanon was mandated to France after World War I. The country became a republic under



Open-air market, Beirut, caters to both East and West.

French control in 1926. The pro-German Vichy French regime that ruled Lebanon after the fall of France in 1940 was overthrown by British and Free French forces in 1941. Lebanon then became an independent republic, but foreign troops did not complete withdrawal from the country until 1946.

The republic is headed by a President elected by a one-house parliament for a 6-year term. The President appoints the Prime Minister and cabinet. The

cabinet is responsible to parliament.

The Army

The small Lebanese army (about 6,000 officers and men) provides adequately for internal security. The troops, procured by voluntary recruitment, are thoroughly trained in the pattern set by the French. Good pay and the high respect they enjoy from civilians contribute to their high morale.

Sightseeing

Beirut is not only the commercial center and chief port but the largest city, the capital, and an educational center. Tyre and Sidon, ancient ports of Lebanon, have dwindled into insignificance while thriving Beirut is still growing. Beirut's international airport has facilities that surpass those of many cities in the United States.

An oil pipeline ends at *Tripoli* (not to be confused with the Tripoli in Libya), another important coastal city. In the mountains above Tripoli you can ski and see the cedars of Lebanon, of Old Testament fame. The coastal village of *Jubayl* was the ancient Phoenician city of *Byblos* from which Egypt imported papyrus. From Byblos came the Greek word for book and the English word, Bible. *Ba'albek*, where the Semitic sun god Baal was once worshiped, was a city of great importance in ancient days.

APPENDIX

MONEY

Rates of exchange fluctuate, so check current values at your installation or at the American Express Company before you exchange your American money for other currencies. A word of caution about money, whatever kind you have-don't spend it lavishly. The average Middle Easterner earns far less than you do, and he will resent it if you throw your money about.

Saudi Arabia

The riyal, worth about 27 cents in American money, is the basic unit of currency. An American dollar is worth about 3.75 riyals. Silver coins are in denominations of one riyal, one-half riyal, and one-quarter riyal. There are smaller coins, called gursh (or gersh), of nickel. Officially, there are 11 gursh in one riyal, but on the free market the riyal is considered to be equal to 22 gursh. Saudi Arabian gold pieces are worth 40 riyals.

Iraq

The dinar is the basic monetary unit. It is worth \$2.80 in American money. Each dinar comprises 1,000 fils. An American dollar equals about 350 fils. There are silver coins in 20-, 50-, 100-, and 200-fils denominations. Smaller coins of nicke! and bronze are used in 1-, 2-, 4-, and 10-fils denominations.

Iran

The basic unit of money is the *riai*, worth 1½ cents in American money. An American dollar is worth 75 *riats*. Ten *rials* are equal to one *toman*. Bills are denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 *rials*. There are ½-, 1-, 2-, 5-, and 10-*rial* (one *toman*) coins. Gold pieces are official currency, but you seldom see them in circulation.

CALENDARS

The cras of the three major religions of the Middle East all date from different years. The oldest, the Jewish, starts from the Jewish date for the creation of the world (Anno Mundi) some 5,700 years ago. The Christian era begins with the birth of Christ (Anno Homini). The Moslem calendar begins with Mohammed's flight, or hegira, from Mecca to Medina in 622 A. D.

The ordinary Moslem calendar is a lunar (moon) one—the only widely used calendar based on the moon rather than the sun. The official calendar of Iran, however, is a solar (sun) calendar, though it also

dates from the hegira. Iranians use the lunar calendar for religious purposes.

The Moslem lunar year of 354-355 days is divided into 12 months, each 29 or 30 days long. Since the lunar year moves along a few days faster than ours, the months have no connection with the seasons.

Our calendar (the Gregorian) is used widely for business transactions in the Middle East. Religious holidays are figured by the calendars of the appropriate religious faiths.

Weights and Measures

The standard metric system is widely used in the Middle East, especially in the cities. There are, however, a number of local weights and measures. For example, cloth is measured in Saudi Arabia by handaaza-the arm's length, usually about 29 inches. Better stick to the metric system than try to learn local measurements, unless you have plenty of time.

Here are a few important facts about the metric system.

Length and Distance

1 centimeter	about % inch 39.37 inches, or a little more than a yard
1 kilometer	about % mile

Square Measure

1 hectare	about	21/2	acres
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Weight and Volume Measure

30 grams 1 kilogram 1 ton 1 liter	about 21/2 pounds
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ARABIC LANGUAGE GUIDE

Unless you have made a study of written Arabic, you won't be able to read Arabic signs and newspapers. The alphabet, containing 28 basic characters, is very different from ours. The Koran serves as a model for classical, or literary, Arabic.

So greatly do spoken dialects differ that it is difficult for the Syrian to understand the Moroccan or the Iraqi the Algerian. This *Guide* does not attempt to teach Arabic or to give all the dialects you might hear. It merely gives the pronunciation that is understood over a wide area for a few useful words and phrases.

All the Arabic words and phrases are written in a spelling that you read like English, using the sounds given in the Pronunciation Key. Accented syllables, or those pronounced louder, are written in capital

letters. You will find it easier to master some of the difficult Arabic sounds if you listen carefully to Arabs when they talk and practice imitating the sounds you hear.

Pronunciation Key

Vowels

 a
 as in cat

 aa
 as in father

 ay
 as in gate

 i
 as in sit

 ai
 as in kite

 o
 as in hot

 o
 as in note

 u
 as in put

Consonants

All consonants should be pronounced. Here are some special consonant sounds to learn.

Heavy, pronounced far back in the throat, something like the t in tug. A tightening of the throat, a sound unknown in Western languages.

Greetings and Polite Phrases

English

Peace on you Good morning Good evening How are you?

How are you?

To answer, say—
Praise to God
Good-by (with peace)
To answer, say—
God grant you peace
Thank you

Thanks Please

Getting Around

north south east west Pronunciation sa-LA-moo 'LAY-kum sa-BAH il KHAYR

me-SA il KHAYR kayf HAL-kum

il HAM-doo-li-la maa' sa-LA-ma

al-LAA yi-se-LI-mak ash-KO-rak SHU-kran min-FAAD-lak

she-MAAL je-NOOB shaarq ghaarb here hi-NAA hi-NAAK

Show me the way, please. waar-EEN-ee el-t-REEQ

min FAAD-lak.

Where (is)....? the restaurant?

the restaurant?
the station?
the toilet?

the movie?

wayn....? or fayn....?

el-MUT-'aam? el-maa-HAT-taa? el-MAR-hudh? or

bayt-al-MAAY?

Foods and Beverages

English

Pronunciation

food
egg
meat
bread
rice

bread
rice
fruit
drink
tea
coffee

milk

I want

akl baydh

lahm khobz TIM-man or ruz

FA-kha sha-RAAB

chai

QAH-wa or GAH-wa or

AH-wa ha-LEEB

a-na a-REED

Days and Time

English

Pronunciation

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
day
night
today
yesterday
tomorrow
What time is it?

yom el-A-had yom el-ith-NAYN yom eth-tha-LA-tha yom el-AR-baa' yom el-kha-MEES yom el-JUM-'a yom es-SABT en-naa-HAAR layl

el-YOM em-BA-rih BUK-ra or

BUK-ra or BA-cher es-SA' kam or b-AYSH es-SA'?

Numbers

one
two
three
four
five
six
seven
eight
nine

WAA-hid ith-NAYN tha-LA-tha AR-baa' KHAM-sa SIT-ta SAB-'aa tha-MAN-ya TIS-'aa

English

Pronunciation

ten twenty thirty one hundred 'ASH-ra 'aash-REEN tha-la-THEEN MEE-ya

Other Useful Words and Phrases

Help, please.

moo-SAA-'i-da min FAAD-lak. a-na ma-REED.

I am sick. How much? expensive cheap

b-AYSH? or b-KAM?

yes no r-KHEES

HEL-waa

open

naa'm or AI-wa

good sweet man maf-TOOH mag-FOOL or

boy girl woman there is (ar2) maq-FOOL or mas-DOOD m-NEEH or zavn

WA-lad bint MAAR-a fee MA-fee foo-LOOS

raail

there is (are) not money $\begin{array}{lll} \text{cigarette} & \text{see-GA-ra} \ \textit{or} \ \text{chee-GA-ra} \\ \text{match} & \text{ke-BREET} \\ \text{pencil} & \text{QA-lam} \\ \text{paper} & \text{WAA-ra-qa} \\ \text{house} & \text{bayt} \end{array}$

 $\begin{array}{ccc} & & \text{bayt} \\ \text{town} & & \text{BA-lad} \\ \text{street} & & \text{SHA-ri'} \\ \text{road} & & & \underline{\text{t-REEQ}} \end{array}$

I'm an American. a-na am-ree-KAA-nee.

PERSIAN LANGUAGE GUIDE

The Persian alphabet is like the Arabic one, with some additional letters. You won't be able to read Persian unless you have made a study of the written language. Persian dialects vary somewhat from region to region, but standard Persian is understood all over Iran. You won't have much trouble making yourself understood if you follow the Pronunciation Key below and practice making the sounds you hear when Persians are speaking.

All the Persian words and phrases are written in a spelling that you read like English. Accented syllables are written in capital letters and should be pronounced louder than the others.

Pronunciation Key

Thank you

Madam or Miss

Please

Good-by

English	Pronunciation
e or eh	as in red
a	as in cat
0	as in hoarse
ow	as in show
h.	An h sound that comes at the end of a word or syllable.
P	A k sound, pronounced far back in your throat.
kh	Like the sound you make
gh	when you clear your throat. A guttural sound, something like gargling.
Greetings and Polite	Phrases
Hello	sa-LAWM
Good night	SHAB beh-khayr
How are you?	HAW-leh sho-MAW cheh- TOW-rast?
Very well, thank you.	KHAY-lee khoob, mam- NOO-nam.
mark -	

mam-NOO-nam

khaw-NOM

khaw-HESH mee-ko-nam

kho-DAW haw-FEZ

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English	Pronunciation
Sir	aw-GHAW
Mr	aw-GHAW-yeh
Mrs,	khaw-NO-meh
Getting Around	
north	sho-MAWL
south	jo-NOOB
east	sharq
west	qarb
Where is?	ko-jawst?
a hotel?	ho-TEL?
a restaurant?	rest-o-RAWN?
the railroad station?	eest-GAW-heh RAW-
	heh aw-HAN?
the toilet?	mo-sta-RAWH?
the nearest town?	naz-deek-ta-REEN
	SHAHR?
Foods and Beverages	
food	qa-ZAW
eggs	TOKH-meh MORGH
meat	goosht
fish	maw-HEE
bread	NAWN or NOON
rice (cooked)	po-LOW
vegetables	sab-ZEE
	ATTE I I II DAN

AW-beh khor-DAN

drinking water

English

Pronunciation

tea coffee milk wine CHAW-ee qah-VEH sheer sha-RAWB

I want

..... MEE-khaw-ham.

Days and Time

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday

Wednesday Thursday

Friday Saturday day

day night today yesterday tomorrow

What time is it?

yek-sham-BEH do-sham-BEH se-sham-BEH

cheh-hawr-sham-BEH panj-sham-BEH

jom-EH sham-BEH

rooz shab em-ROOZ dee-ROOZ far-DAW

saw-AT CHAN-dast?

Numbers

one two three four yek do seh

cheh-HAWR

five panj sheesh six haft. seven hasht eight nine noh dah ten beest twenty thirty see one hundred sad

Other Useful Words and Phrases

Help me. MA-raw ko-MAK ko-need.
I am sick. MAN naw-KHOSH hast-am.

How much? CHAN-dast?

That's too much. KHAY-lee zee-AW-dast.

cheap ar–ZAWN
yes BA–leh
no na
good khoob
bad bad
money pool

cigarette see-GAWR
match keb-REET
pencil meh-DAWD
paper kaw-GHAZ

I'm an American. MAN em-ree-kaw-EE-am.

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